

PCT/FI99/00192

25-04-2000

Amended Claims

1. A microbiological determination method, characterized in, that the bacteria are
5 detected from their cultivation medium clearly prior to the peak of the population
growth using the antigens which the cells express soon after their inoculation to the
enrichment medium, before the actual growth phase or in the beginning of it.
2. A method according to the claim 1, characterized in, that the microbial antigens
10 are detected immunologically using antibodies directly after the stationary phase.
3. A method according to the claim 2, characterized in, that the microbial antigens
are detected immunologically in 3-4.5 hours after the onset of the enrichment culture.
4. A method according to any of the claims 2-3, characterized in, that the detected
15 antigens are proteins.
5. A method according to ^{claim 1} any of the claims 1-4, characterized in, that the detected
antigens are fimbrial proteins.
6. A method according to the claim 5, characterized in, that the detected antigens
20 are type 1 fimbrial proteins or comparable to them.
7. A method according to ^{claim 1} any of the claims 1-6, characterized in, that the
25 microbial antigens are detected with antibodies, which have been produced against the
synthetic peptide Ala Ser Phe Thr Ala Ile Gly Asp Thr Thr Ala Gln Val Pro Phe Ser Ile
Val or a derivative thereof.
8. A method according to ^{claim 1} any of the claims 1-7, characterized in, that the detected
30 microbes are enteric bacteria.

AMENDED SHEET

9. A method according to the claim 8, characterized in, that the detected microbes are fecal coliforms.

10. A method according to the claim 9, characterized in, that the detected microbes belong to genus *Salmonella*.

11. A method according to ^{claim 1} any of the claims 1-10, characterized in, that the microbes are incubated prior to the immunological detection in their optimal growth temperature.

12. A method according to the claim 11, characterized in, that the microbes are incubated prior to the detection at temperatures about 37 °C.

13. A method according to ^{claim 1} any of the claims 1-12, characterized in, that the microbes are incubated prior to the detection at temperatures above 42 °C.

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C3